

PARIS FASHIONS

New Styles in Muffs and Furs of all Descriptions



Caracul Coat with Gray Mouffion Furs
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Fox Muff and Boa
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Fur and Chiffon Muff and Wrap
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Breitschwanz Coat with Fox Muff
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Sable Muff and Boa
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BY A. T. ASHMORE.

FURS, jewels and laces never lose their charm, and the woman who does not care for them is to be avoided as not mentally well balanced. Furs more than the others are an all-important possession in any save a tropical climate, and this winter more than ever are to be reckoned with as one of the principal items in the problem of dress expenditure. It is interesting to note from year to year how fashion rules the question of furs. There are often years when comparatively little fur is worn, when apparently the question of warmth and comfort matters nothing and the coldest blasts of winter are defied in a cloth or velvet costume, when a small neckpiece on the order of a high collar of fur is deemed quite sufficient as recognition that the winter season is here. Another time, during the summer, a cool evening will provide an excuse for the display of a sable or ermine stole, or even a cape with a lace gown, but the comfort loving woman knows that while there may be "warmth in a bit of lace," in the fine sable stole or wrap there is everything that could possibly be wished for, as a wrap affords protection from either a summer sea breeze or a winter's icy blast.

Muffs Enormous and Eccentric.

Muffs are this season most extraordinary not only as regards size and shape but variety of style and the skins that are used. Apparently many new species of fur bearing animals have been discovered within the last twelve months, and even the best informed naturalist would find it difficult to classify many of the new furs that are so proudly worn by the smartly gowned women to-day. Fox is a name applied most indiscriminately to various furs. Seal-skin has more different species, not to say imitations, than were ever hitherto discovered; ermine, with or without tails, often bearing a singular resemblance to rabbit and coney; bear and wolf are some of the novelties of the season. Alaska sable, better known as skunk fur, which has attained to such dizzy heights of popularity as to be classed with the expensive furs, is now not only made up into neckpieces and muffs, but trims gowns to be worn in the house. There was a time when such a thing would have been declared quite impossible for many reasons.

Imitation furs have always been ranked as impossible by the woman with refined taste and inexhaustible pocket-book, but to-day the cost of the imita-

tion is satisfactory enough to those who feel that because an article is costly it is necessarily most desirable. Consequently the possessor of priceless sables is quite willing to have her opera cloak trimmed with some of the lately fashionable furs like fisher and to have a muff and neckpiece of the same.

Made Without Interlining.

There would seem to be just as much uncertainty over the size and shape of the muffs as of the hats this year. Absurdly large and even grotesque are many, the apparent object in view being to give the effect of reckless extravagance. As a matter of comfort and warmth the old fashioned small round muff was much better than the flat wide open ones that are made with so little interlining.

The body of the muff made separate from the fur is one of the favorite fashions this winter. Of large size, but more often round rather than flat, the muff itself is of satin. The fur is so arranged as to show the markings of the skins to best advantage by leaving them flat almost like a rug; indeed, it is known as the rug muff. The satin of which the muff itself is made can be black, white or any color desired, and while it is not conspicuous it is quite evident. The skins are not sewed together but left each intact and fastened to a flat lining of chiffon or satin, quite apart from the muff, which gives a much richer effect than when they are sewed close together; but both styles are fashionable. The latter fashion, however, carried out on quite a different plan from that of former seasons, shows off any beauty of natural markings or coloring to great advantage.

Apparently the end and aim of fashion is to give the appearance of fur being used most lavishly; the stoles, and indeed all neckpieces, are much wider and longer than last year, and with the exaggeratedly large muff, the equally ex-

aggeratedly large scarf or stole, and a hat trimmed with a broad band of the same fur a woman looks as though she were completely clothed in fur. The wide shawl collars on the cloth coats, the big muffs to match and again the same fur in the band around the velvet turban or the entire fur hat, are only other variations of the same scheme. It is not so practical to have the fur collar on the coat attached, but that detail is decided by the individual; then the wide cuffs of fur must not be forgotten, for they add still another touch, giving even more the effect of warmth and lavish expenditure.

New Kinds of Fur.

Fisher, "skinner," moullon, all are comparatively new names, but ones that are already well known to the fashionably gowned. The evening wraps afford a fine opportunity to display these furs, and the wide band around the bottom of the coat or the medium width one that encircles it completely and the very long shawl collar are all most popular. Gray moullon on a dull blue brocade or heavy ribbed ottoman silk coat is extremely smart, while a pale yellow satin with chinchilla is exceptionally beautiful. Chinchilla is extremely fashionable this season and is made up in all the new styles of muff and stole. The markings of this fur as well as its exquisite softness were never shown to greater advantage than in this winter's fashions, and it is not strange that women feel the outlay for a chinchilla set is worth even the price that must be paid for it. It is not a universally becoming fur, and, furthermore, is sadly perishable—two details that endear it to the hearts of those whom it graces. The skunk fur is extremely becoming, and the dark coloring and the length of the hair make a good contrast with both light and dark colors and materials.

Fancy muffs of all kinds are most popular this winter, and it would seem as though there was no end to the new shapes. Satin and satin ribbon, velvet and velvet ribbon and the heaviest of chiffon all are combined with fur, and often there is less of the fur than of the other materials. Flat, without stuffing, oblong in shape

and of goodly size, these muffs are most decorative and add greatly to any smart costume; but it should be borne in mind that they are not appropriate with a plain street costume. With this the simple style in furs is far smarter, and there are plenty of smart sets in the simpler styles as well. One of the fads of this season is the round stuffed muff of large size quite

on the lines of the old fashioned ones, and there are signs and indications that it will not be long before the small, round fur muff of older time will again be in style—not this winter, though. The round muffs that are fashionable this winter are most clumsy and unwieldy and have nothing to recommend them save that they are a new fashion. It seems strange to speak of a muff as becoming, but that is one of the

points in favor of the flat styles and the reason for their never waning popularity. For the benefit of those forced to be economical be it realized this winter that the

medium—not small—sized muff is not hopelessly and conspicuously out of date, but it is quite possible, especially if the fur is of good quality.

Fashion Details That Every Woman Should Know

VERY beautiful are the fur coat and skirt costumes, of which almost all women who lay claim to a place in fashion's van possess at least one. They are in a great majority made of broadtail with trimmings of the longer furs. One most charming suit was made with a rather close fitting skirt of broadtail trimmed around the foot with a broad band of skunk. The rather short semi-fitting jacket was made so that, except in the coldest weather, it came together only at the waist line. It was trimmed with a rolling collar and turned back fronts of skunk. The long sleeves were also bordered with skunk. A broadtail turban with a black aigrette, a skunk muff and a black satin blouse with a cream lace chemisette and collar completed this costume.

Another most charming costume of broadtail was trimmed with chinchilla. The costume consisted of a black satin frock with a very deep band of broadtail forming the lower half of the skirt, which was bordered at the lower edge with a band of chinchilla. With this was worn a Russian blouse coat, which reached down to the broadtail on the skirt. The coat was bordered with chinchilla around the lower edge and the cuffs. Jet buttons were used on the coat and at the throat there was a knot of gray velvet. With this costume was worn a large velvet hat trimmed with very full black aigrettes.

Figure 1 is shown a charming model for a cloth, velvet or cashmere gown trimmed with embroidery. The costume shown was made up in old blue cloth and

PARTICULARLY handsome among the braided costumes is the model shown in Figure 2. This costume was of violet cloth braided in the same



FIG. 2—BRAIDED CLOTH COSTUME.

shade. The coat was also trimmed with jeweled buttons and with a little very dark violet velvet, which forms the tiny waistcoat at the top of the jacket fronts and appears again on the lower edge. With this costume a black velvet hat was worn and fox muff, with stole, if necessary for warmth, but the coat is particularly effective when the fine collar and jabot of cream batiste are permitted to show.

With another costume, made in the same model, the waistcoat was of seal-skin, and muff and hat of the same. This effect was both rich and becoming. Seal-skin is particularly fashionable when used in this way to trim handsome braided costumes or coats. The fur is so quiet in effect because of its close, short hair and deep color that the braid seems to be necessary to give the garment a striking quality. Other short haired furs, ermine, etc., are used in the same manner for waistcoats in braided costumes.



FIG. 1—EMBROIDERED CLOTH GOWN.

Gray Cloth Coat with Chinchilla Fur
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